IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (Currently Amended) An image storage method comprising:

an image storage step, of continuously storing a plurality of image data in a first area of a single file; [[and]]

a reference information storage step, of storing reference information for accessing a source outside the file, which pertains to each of the plurality of image data stored in said image storage step, in a storage order of the plurality of image data in a second area of the file,

wherein the reference information includes location information for accessing image data which is a higher resolution version of the corresponding image data stored in the first area, and

wherein the single file stores both the plurality of image data and the reference information; and

a feature amount storage step, of assuring a third area in the file, and storing feature amount data including a plurality of components that may be utilized for searching the image data stored in the first area in the storage order of the plurality of image data.

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2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a header information storage step, of assuring a fourth area in the file, and storing header information including boundary position information between the first and second areas.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said image storage step includes the step of compressing and storing the plurality of image data.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the reference information specifies an image file name of an original of the image data stored in the first area.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said image storage step includes the step of storing one or a plurality of frame images extracted from moving image data in the first area, and

said reference information storage step includes the step of storing information that specifies moving image data corresponding to each frame image stored in the first area and a frame position thereof as the reference information in the second area.

7. (Currently Amended) An image storage apparatus comprising:

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image storage means for continuously storing a plurality of image

data in a first area of a single file; [[and]]

reference information storage means for storing reference

information for accessing a source ~~file~~ outside the file, which pertains to each of the

plurality of image data stored by said image storage means, in a storage order of the

plurality of image data in a second area of the file,

wherein the reference information includes location information for

accessing image data which is a higher resolution version of the corresponding image data

stored in the first area, and

wherein the single file stores both the plurality of image data and the

reference information; and feature amount storage means for assuring a third area in the

file, and storing feature amount data including a plurality of components that may be

utilized for searching the image data stored in the first area in the storage order of the

plurality of image data

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising

header information storage means for assuring a fourth area in the file, and storing header

information including boundary position information between the first and second areas.

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10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said image storage means compresses and stores the plurality of image data.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the reference information specifies an image file name of an original of the image data stored in the first area.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said image storage means stores one or a plurality of frame images extracted from moving image data in the first area, and

said reference information storage means stores information that specifies moving image data corresponding to each frame image stored in the first area and a frame position thereof as the reference information in the second area.

13. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing an image data file, the image data file comprising:

a first area which continuously stores a plurality of image data; [[and]]

a second area which stores reference information for accessing a source outside the file, which pertains to each of the plurality of image data stored in the first area, in a storage order of the plurality of image data,

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wherein the reference information includes location information for accessing image data which is a higher resolution version of the corresponding image data stored in the first area, and

wherein the single file stores both the plurality of image data and the reference information; and

a third area which stores feature amount data including a plurality of components that may be utilized for searching the image data stored in the first area in the storage order of the plurality of image data.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The medium according to claim 13, wherein the image data file further comprises a fourth area which stores header information including boundary position information between the first and second areas.

16. (Original) The medium according to claim 13, wherein the image data file stored in the first area is compressed.

17. (Original) The medium according to claim 13, wherein the reference information specifies an image file name of an original of the image data stored in the first area.

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18. (Original) The medium according to claim 13, wherein the first area

stores one or a plurality of frame images extracted from moving image data, and

the second area stores information that specifies moving image data

corresponding to each frame image stored in the first area and a frame position thereof as

the reference information.

19. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a control program for

making a computer implement generation and storage of an image data file, said control

program comprising:

[[a]] code of an image storage step, of continuously storing a plurality of

image data in a first area of a single file; [[and]]

[[a]] code of a reference information storage step, of storing reference

information for accessing a source outside the file, which pertains to each of the plurality

of image data stored in the image storage step, in a storage order of the plurality of image

data in a second area of the file,

wherein the reference information includes location information for

accessing image data which is a higher resolution version of the corresponding image data

stored in the first area, and

wherein the single file stores both the plurality of image data and the

reference information; and

code of a feature amount storage step, of assuring a third area in the file, and

storing feature amount data including a plurality of components that may be utilized for

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